

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/804,117

Examiner

Dirk Wright

Applicant(s)

KATAKURA, TAKEJI

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 19 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 03192004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

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Claims Allowed

Claims 1-20 are allowable over the prior art of record. The claims are allowable because the prior art does not anticipate nor render obvious the invention of: A shift control apparatus for an automated twin clutch transmission including a first input shaft on which a drive-side gear for attaining a first forward gear ratio and a drive-side gear for attaining a third forward gear ratio are supported, a first engine clutch operable to establish a releasable drive connection between an engine and the first input shaft, a second input shaft on which a drive-side gear for attaining a second forward gear ratio and a drive-side gear for attaining a fourth forward gear ratio are supported, a second engine clutch operable to establish a releasable drive connection between the engine and the second input shaft, an output shaft on which driven-side gears meshed with the respective drive-side gears are supported, and a plurality of shift clutches operable to establish releasable drive connections between the drive-side gears and the first and second input shafts and between the driven-side gears and the output shaft, the shift control apparatus comprising: a shift controller operable to control engagement and release of the first and second engine clutches and the shift clutches thereby attaining a desired gear ratio; a shift instructing device operable to instruct a gearshift when operated by a vehicle driver so as to move a predetermined amount from a neutral position; a shift instruction outputting device operable to output a shift instruction when the shift instructing device is caused to move the predetermined amount from the neutral position; and a shifting movement detecting device operable to detect shifting movement of the shift instructing device before the shift instruction is outputted by the shift instruction outputting device and output a shift starting instruction representative thereof; the shift controller being configured to perform, in response to the shift starting instruction from the

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shifting movement detecting device, a pre-shift control by releasing one of the first and second engine clutches from a power transmission route of a pre-shift gear ratio and engaging one of the shift clutches corresponding to a post-shift gear ratio, and perform, in response to the shift instruction from the shift instruction outputting device, a gearshift by releasing the other of the first and second engine clutches from the power transmission route of the pre-shift gear ratio and engaging said one of the first and second engine clutches.

No particular single feature of the claim renders the claim as a whole patentable. Only the claim taken as a whole combination is deemed new and unobvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Prior Art Discussed

The examiner has considered the references cited by applicant in his information disclosure statement filed concurrently with the application. None of the references show all of the features of the claimed combination.

The references cited by the examiner are deemed pertinent to applicant's disclosure. They all show shift controllers for twin clutch transmissions but do not show the claimed features relating to the shift instructing device and shift controller.

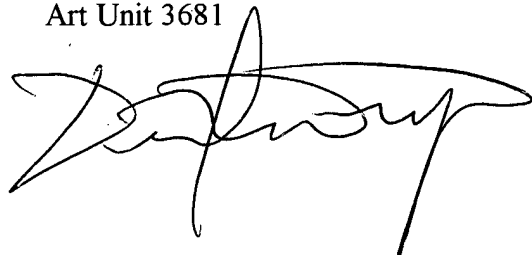
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dirk Wright whose telephone number is 571-272-7098. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor can be reached on 571-272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dirk Wright
Primary Examiner
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dirk Wright', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

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Monday, August 15, 2005